

when I had the happiness of seeing you at the desk -
On the other hand, your work though far heavier
in amount - will be vastly lightened by your
greatly increased knowledge & experience - Still, tho'
I trust that, in the great mercy of God, your health
& vigour may be spared until you have accomplished
this great work - I nevertheless, feel that it is an appall-
ing effort - even for you - When I think of the Indo-European
languages untouched, so far as I know, & the Cyprian
language, it seems like the labour of a life! Even
the revision of what was formerly published, in
dear Forsey's life-time, is a formidable undertaking
involving, as it does, so much new matter - I wish
you could get some adequate help - mate. Another
As a man in energy - zeal & knowledge! It would
not be easy, but you may have some one in
view - as a lieutenant, & I earnestly hope so, for I
dread the inevitable labour of such a work - both for
mind & body - Altho' I cannot expect to see it, yet
I rejoice in the thought that you shall add such a
top-stone to the edifice of your hard-earned, well-
deserved scientific renown - I trust, too, that dear Mrs. G.
may be spared to share in the joy & honour of your
success which, life & health permitting, I anticipate, with full
confidence - I would enquire about the Forsey girls, had I known
what I had heard - I fear you do not often see or hear
from them - I trust their means are sufficient for comfort
as they, too, are advancing in years, & consequent requirements -
I know that you have resigned your Prof. Chair but
am not sure whether you have also quitted Cambridge
but I shall send my letter there, as your whereabouts
will be well known to the authorities there - By the
bye, one of my John's sons is studying at Harvard -
that God may abundantly bless & prosper you both
is the earnest prayer of your loving & affectionate

Dr. May, Dean of Worcester has written your book
with which she has just charged me
I am sure you will be glad to hear
as they too would be glad to see you
Worcester, 20 July 1878.

My dear, & valued old friends - for such you
are in my recollection - though it is unlikely that
we shall ever meet again, in this world - I am
desirous that you should know that you are not
forgotten - but remembered with all love & kindness.
I write to you, jointly, as I should not know which
to select, in view of the probability that I shall
never address either of you, again - when I wrote
last - a long time since - I was very feeble & ailing, but,
on the 17 February 1877. I was seized with paralysis!
The attack was sudden, & altogether unexpected, as I was
in the parlour, & preparing for breakfast, at the usual
hour of 9 o'clock. Happily, it was of a slight character,
that is to say, not affecting any vital parts, & I recovered my
speech in two or three days, but was confined to my bed
& to my chamber's walls - the use of my limbs with ease -
for 8 or 10 - before I had the use of my limbs with ease -
& even now - when 18 months have elapsed - I have not
entire freedom of motion - partly, no doubt, from
extreme weakness - My digestive powers are also feeble,
& in general, I am, altogether, & different from
what I was before my seizure - My recollection, in
particular, has suffered much, & is now, much impaired.
No doubt my age (81 completed last month!) has some-
thing to do with this, tho' brought to a more sudden crisis
by the attack - Still, & I bless God for it - My faculties
remain to me in full exercise, so far as judgment
is concerned - at least I think so - & those about me
confirm me in the opinion - My sight however, is
somewhat dim, & my brain at times, confused, & I am
incapable of any continued stretch of thought or occupation.

For the rest, you will, at once observe, that I have
no longer "the pen of a ready writer" - My powers of
locomotion are very limited - but, with aid of a
stick, I crawl about a little - more or less - daily,
varying much, in this respect - Thus, then, I have endeav-
voured to set myself before you, as I now am, as I believe
that, however uncaring, my account of my condition will
not be without interest for you - And now of the photograph
enclosed - It was taken, last year, at Brighton, on the day
of Herbert's majority - and in commemoration of it - The
Group is thought to be very successful - Dear Emma Simon
whom you may remember, stands in loco parentis to my two
dear ones and is all that a sister could possibly be to me - My
own portrait is thought to be a perfect resemblance - so you
can see what I looked like, last year, at 80 years old! I do
not think I could make so good an appearance, now - for I
am much thinner, as well as more feeble - We are now, again,
the same little party, as last year, at Worthing, on the Sussex
Coast, about 10 miles from Brighton - We have been
already about 3 weeks, & propose to remain about 5 weeks
more, before returning to our quarters, at Bleckheath - This,
being the Oxford vacation - Herbie is with us, for 3 months - He
is well in health, thank God, but remains deaf as the result of
his terrible attacks of Scarlatina, when at Winchester - He is,
I hope, doing well, at Oxford - & 22 years hence, I trust he will
take a very respectable Degree, with honours - What may be his
future Career, I know not - as he does not speak on the subject -
I may not hope to see him started - but I trust he may be
a useful & respected member of Society - We intend, I am thankful
that I have been spared to see him a man of good principles,
certainly a Scholar, & I trust a gentleman in his feelings - My
dear girl is, also, a great blessing to mankind, & a great help
of correct principle & manners, & indeed, all that any father might
desire - now 23 1/2 yrs. old - Herbie takes pleasure in botanizing,
& has a good knowledge of British plants - He also obtained,
when at Winchester, a Certificate from the Beford & Cambridge
Examiners for general Botany - but he has not time for much
Physiological Study - To complete my Bulletin of the
family I must mention our "Old folks at home" who still are

shared to us, & possessed of a surprising Vitality - Mr. Simon
^{entered} his 99th year, last April! & Mr. S. is 92 w. three months.
They are, in truth, a remarkable Couple - 23rd July 1878. I
began my letter 3 days ago - I hope to complete it, this morning,
but I write but little, at a time, & as you see, with very
questionable patches - It was my intention to have called on
Hooker before he set out, for your Shares, but he left
a month sooner than his previous letter led me to expect -
I have not seen him since his return, tho' I wrote to
congratulate him on his safe arrival - I should much like
to spend an hour or two at New - now & then - but it is
too far for me, even if I were equal to the excitement,
which is not the case - I fear Hooker is annoyed at the
agitation which is being got up to open the gardens at
earlier hours - If the public are successful, the Scientific
Character of them will soon be lost sight of, I fear,
as John Bull's next step will doubtless be to render
them subservient to his recreations - Pic-nics - Cigars -
Lale; with the debris of which the walks, & shrubberies
would soon be abundantly adorned - In fact, the public
would fain make them a "tea-garden," in which
they would delight themselves - more so - & where
maids & Children would have full swing - I trust,
however, that even the "informed" House of Commons
are not yet sufficiently enlightened to enter upon
this Cause of improvement? Beer & tobacco, versus
Botany & Science! This leads me to remark, that I,
recently noticed in the paper that you are about to
continue the Flora - & to review, & add to, the already published
Volumes - What an Undertaking! My dear Gray! I almost
tremble at the thought with the idea of new Mexico &
California in my mind, & the immense field which they have
added to the former area - I know your energy & see
with pleasure that you take a leading part in
American Science - but you are 25 years older than